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# The Anti-Slavery Reporter.

CAIRO

## Home for Freed Women Slaves,

*Under the Auspices of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society  
and the Aborigines Protection Society.*

~~~~~  
London Committee: (Provisional.)

RIGHT HON. W. E. FORSTER, M.P.      SIR T. FOWELL BUXTON, BART.

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This benevolent scheme, which was set on foot some months ago, has, we are glad to say, now taken definite shape. A public meeting will be held on Tuesday, the 22nd April, at the Mansion House, by kind permission of the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, who will preside.

It is thought that an epitome of the proceedings connected with this Home may be of interest, and that its circulation amongst friends of the cause will produce the pecuniary support necessary to carry on so benevolent an undertaking. Her Majesty the Queen has graciously given her consent to become Patroness of the Institution, to which she has subscribed the handsome sum of £100.

The first public notice of the intention to form a Home for Freed Women was published in *The Times* of December 24, 1883, in a paper entitled *Slavery and the Slave Trade in Africa*, by the Secretary of the Anti-Slavery Society, as follows:—

With regard to abolition in Egypt, the question has been frequently asked—"What will you do with the Slaves when they are set free? The men will be able to take care of themselves, but how will you procure employment for the women? And if this be not done, how will you prevent them from going on to the streets?" There is much force in this argument, but I am glad to say that the subject has not escaped the attention of those who are now in a position to make themselves heard by the Egyptian Government. It is believed by many persons of practical experience that the formation of a "Home" in Cairo for Freed Women Slaves, under the management of European and American ladies and gentlemen, is an absolute necessity. In such a "Home" these women would be temporarily taken care of until suitable situations could be found, or till they could be respectably married, and as the scheme has been strongly supported by Mr. Clifford Lloyd, who is at present the English adviser in the Egyptian Home Office, I feel sure it is one well worthy the earnest consideration of all persons interested in the cause of freedom. In fact, without some such machinery as this it would be cruel to take inexperienced negro Slave women from the shelter of the harem and expose them uncared for to all the dangers and temptations of an Oriental city.

This immediately received the hearty support of the Right Hon. W. E. Forster, M.P., who addressed the following vigorous letter to the Editor of *The Times* :—

LETTER FROM THE RIGHT HON.

W. E. FORSTER, M.P.

TO THE EDITOR OF *The Times*.

Sir,—I have read with painful interest Mr. Allen's able article on African Slavery and the Slave-trade in your paper of this morning.

Two facts already acknowledged by all who have studied the question are made unmistakably clear. It cannot be doubted that the Slave-trade for the supply of the Oriental markets is as destructive of human life and as productive of human misery as was the American traffic True, harem and household Slavery, demoralizing though it be, may not be so cruel as prædial Slavery, though it must not be forgotten that large numbers of Slaves are annually used up on plantations in Arabia and elsewhere; but this much is certain—that the horrors of the middle passage are equalled by those of the desert journey, and the victims are captured by the same fiendish Slave-hunt.

And it is also clear that by far the most efficient, and, indeed, the only certain means of stopping the Slave-trade, is the abolition of Slavery.

I have long been so convinced of this truth that I have never been sanguine that the supply from the Soudan could be stopped while the demand continues, though while Colonel Gordon was at work it was not easy to limit the power of his heroism and genius and character. Nor would I for a moment counsel the re-conquest of the Soudan for the purpose of preventing the Slave-trade, and, above all, not by an army composed of pariahs and outlaws, as described by Dr. Schweinfurth, or of fellahs dragged up in chains and led by Zebehr Pasha, himself the Prince of Slave-traders.

There is, however, one hopeful passage in Mr. Allen's article to which I most earnestly beg the attention of your readers.

The abolition of Slavery in Egypt would be a great blow to the Soudan Slave-trade. Its continuance while we are the virtual rulers of Egypt is a disgrace to England and an encouragement of Slavery.

One chief source of the demand for Egyptian Slaves is the supply of women to the harems. When these women and girls are released, some employment must be found for them, or their freedom will doom them to a worse fate than Slavery. The Home for Freed Women, therefore, mentioned by Mr. Allen, becomes a most practical scheme, and not the less because strongly recommended by Mr. Clifford Lloyd, in whose judgment and energy, as well as benevolence, I have the strongest faith.

I may add that he has himself informed me that without some such provision as this Home would afford, he dare not press the Egyptian Government, as he otherwise gladly would, to enforce their present emancipation laws.

I am well aware that we are beset by subscriptions for all parts of the world, but no very large sum will, I think, be needed, and I confidently appeal to those who, like myself, think the abolition of the Slave-trade and Slavery one of their chief duties in life, to send a subscription to Mr. C. H. Allen, Secretary of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, who will, I understand, put himself in communication with the committee formed at Cairo under the supervision of Mr. Clifford Lloyd.

I shall myself be glad to subscribe £50 for two years.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. E. FORSTER.

*Burley-in-Wharfedale,*

*Leeds, December 24, 1883.*

THE following letter from the Honorary Secretary, shortly afterwards, announced the formation of a small provisional committee in London to collect funds. The approval of so high an authority as Sir Samuel Baker, and his valuable suggestions respecting emancipation in Egypt render the reproduction of this letter useful at the present moment.

"SLAVERY IN EGYPT.

"TO THE EDITOR OF *The Times*.

"Sir,—In August, 1877, a decree was signed in Alexandria by Ismail, Khedive of Egypt, and Sherif Pasha, the first article of which



enacts that:—'The sale of negro Slaves or Abyssinians from family to family shall be and shall remain prohibited in Egypt in an absolute manner upon all the territory comprised between Alexandria and Assouan. This prohibition shall take effect in seven years from the time of the signature of the said Convention, of which the present ordinance shall form an integral part. The same prohibition will extend to the Soudan and the other Egyptian provinces, but only in 12 years from the date of the above-cited signature.'

"Thus, in August of the present year—exactly 50 years after the first public step taken by Great Britain for the emancipation of the Slaves in her own colonies—the sale of Slaves in Egypt proper will become illegal according to the terms of the Convention made with the late Khedive by England.

"Seeing that His Highness Tewfik Pasha is strongly in favour of abolition, it ought not to be very difficult for his present Ministry—of which the enlightened Nubar Pasha is the head, and Mr. Clifford Lloyd and Colonel Moncrieff are important members—to see that the above-named decree is properly carried out. They should also announce that at no distant date this will be followed by an Act decreeing the total abolition of Slavery in Egypt.

"As to the best means for obtaining abolition, I think that the following quotation from a letter lately written to me by Sir Samuel Baker contains very valuable suggestions:—

'Nothing will ever suppress the Slave-hunting of the White Nile regions unless England should assume the supreme command in Egypt. Then—

'(1) Emancipate all Slaves after 12 months' notice.

'(2) Introduce a vagrant Act to compel them to labour, otherwise they will become vagabonds.

'(3) Organise institutions for freed women Slaves, from which they might be hired as servants.

'(4) Let a proclamation be issued declaring Slave-hunting or the conveyance of a cargo of Slaves to be piracy.'

"With every word of the above this society heartily agrees, and I think that the 12 months' notice recommended by Sir Samuel

Baker (before the publication of General Gordon's views on the subject) may fairly be said to meet that distinguished officer's idea of giving compensation to the owners.

"With regard to the institutions for female Slaves recommended by Sir Samuel Baker, I have the pleasure to inform you that this first practical step in the abolition of Slavery in Egypt has now taken definite form. In response to the strong appeal made by Mr. Clifford Lloyd and others some months ago, a committee has been formed in England, of which the Right Hon. W. E. Forster, M.P., Sir T. Fowell Buxton, and the chairman of our society, Mr. Edmund Sturge, are members. This body will act in concert with the committee now forming in Cairo under the auspices of Mr. Clifford Lloyd, Colonel Scott-Moncrieff, R.E., Judge Sheldon Amos, Dr. Schweinfurth, and others, to undertake the raising of the necessary funds for the formation of a home for freed women Slaves in Cairo. Several gentlemen and ladies interested in the cause have promised sums of £100, £50, and £25 per annum for two years. A list of these will shortly be advertised, and the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society has undertaken to provide the requisite office accommodation and clerical labour gratis. The carrying out to a successful issue of this scheme is declared by Mr. Clifford Lloyd in emphatic terms to be an absolute necessity before he can recommend the Egyptian Government to set in motion any of the existing machinery for giving freedom to women Slaves.

"I shall be glad to give further information and to receive donations and subscriptions, or they may be paid direct to Messrs. Dimsdale, Fowler and Co., Cornhill, to the credit of the 'Home For Freed Women Slaves.'

"I am, sir, yours faithfully,

"CHARLES H. ALLEN, Secretary,  
British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society,  
55, New Broad-street, London, E.C., Jan. 11."

In due course the friends of the cause in Egypt took public action, with very satisfactory results, as will be seen by the Report of the Meeting held in Cairo in March last, for which we are indebted to the Editor of the *Egyptian Gazette*.

## MEETING IN CAIRO.

AN interesting and important public meeting was held 28th March, at Shephard's Hotel, Cairo, in furtherance of the Home for Freed Women Slaves. Among those present were H. E. Sir Evelyn Baring, K.C.S.I., Lady Baring, H. E. Nubar Pasha and Madame Nubar, Earl of Yarborough, Lord Houghton, Lady Evelyn Wood, Sir Benson and Lady Maxwell, Mr. Clifford Lloyd, Mrs. and Miss Lloyd, Prof. and Mrs. Sheldon Amos, Mr. FitzGerald, and Mrs. Scott Moncrieff, Col. and Mrs. Watson, Dr. Sandwith, Col. Baker, V.C., Col. Larking, Pastor Graeber, Dr. Crookshank, Col. Gibbons, Mr. Cartwright, Mr. Le Mesurier, Mr. J. M. Cook, Mr. B. Smith, Mrs. Dupont, Miss Whateley, Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Harvey (American Mission), Mr. Moberly Bell, &c.

Sir Evelyn Baring in opening the proceedings said: The object which we are met to-day to discuss is one, and probably by no means the least important, of the series of questions connected with Slavery and the Slave-trade. I do not know whether it is fully understood in England, or even here in Egypt that no person, man or woman, need remain a Slave in Egypt one hour longer than he or she chooses to do so. It may be asked how such an institution as voluntary Slavery—an apparent contradiction in terms—can possibly exist and I will endeavour briefly to explain to you how, as a matter of fact, this seeming paradox does exist in this country of anomalies. There are at present four bureaux of manumission—one in Upper Egypt, one in Lower Egypt, one at Alexandria, and the fourth and most important here at Cairo.

Any Slave who applies to any one of these bureaux of manumission—directly in person, or indirectly through the British Consulate—receives a certificate of manumission, by which certificate the Slave at once secures freedom. I should however explain what is here meant by the word freedom. The Slave does not obtain all that we understand by freedom, but after he has received that certificate of manumission he is no longer obliged as heretofore to work for his master, without payment—he can sell his labour in the market either to his master or to any one else. That is no doubt one of the most important attributes of freedom, and that the Slave receives. But there are certain social disabilities under which the

Slave falls by reason of the law of this country from which he is not relieved by the certificate of manumission. By the personal law of Mohammedans any one who has been a Slave can neither marry nor inherit property without the consent of his or her master. The native tribunals which have just been started are powerless in this matter. I am informed on good authority that supposing any one were to die and were to leave money to a Slave and the Slave went to the new tribunals, in order to acquire possession of the property bequeathed to him, the Court would not have to consider whether the will was valid or invalid and other cognate points, nor whether anything had been done by the master or mistress which was against the personal law of the Mohammedans. In case the Court found in the negative it would be powerless to do anything. The property would go to his master. There is no remedy to be found for this state of things except by the passing of such an Act as that adopted in India in 1843 which obliged the tribunals not to take cognisance of the institution of Slavery.

I will not go into the question whether it is desirable or possible to pass such an Act in Egypt. A measure of the kind would involve very radical changes and would lead to the discussion of subjects on which it is not desirable or expedient for me to enter at present. I have merely alluded to it now in order to show what is the practical work done by the bureaux of manumission. The bureaux, therefore, give the Slave liberty and enable him to sell his labour; but they do not absolve him from the disabilities arising from the personal law of the Mohammedans. Even this amount of freedom is great compared with what he had in a state of Slavery, and I am happy to say a great number of Slaves have acquired their freedom by application to the bureaux. I have here a report furnished by Mr. Borg, who speaks on this subject with great authority, which shows that the number of Slaves who have claimed and obtained their manumission since the bureaux were established some five years ago is 8,986, in round numbers nearly 9,000, of which about 3,700 were men and 5,300 women. Of these a very small number were Circassians. By far the largest proportion were negroes and Abyssinians. These figures do not quite represent the actual state of the activity of these bureaux.

At first there was naturally a great rush of Slaves anxious to obtain their manumission, and subsequently a falling off in the number. Last year the number of female Slaves who applied for their manumission varied from a minimum of 31 in the month of February to a maximum of 62 in August. In Cairo the average was something like 35 per month. It is perfectly well known that there are many Slaves in the harems who have not availed themselves of these bureaux, and several reasons have been given for this. One is that many do not wish to acquire their freedom. This is very probably the case with some of the older Slaves. Others again, it is said, cannot escape from the harems to apply to the bureaux. This may account for a certain number. Finally it has been suggested that many of them may not know that if they apply to the bureaux they will obtain their freedom. I am told, however, by Mr. Borg that he thinks the fact is very widely known even within the recesses of the harems, and that the most important reason which prevents female Slaves applying for their freedom is that these poor women when they leave the homes in which they have been Slaves have no means, no place of refuge, and are often driven to lead a life of misery, or even of crime and vice. It is with this in view and to remedy this state of things that we are met here to-day. It has occurred to several philanthropic ladies and gentlemen to establish a home for female Slaves where they may be received at their first enfranchisement, where they may be cared for and taught some useful handiwork, and so prepared for their new life of liberty. I am sure you will be pleased to hear that Her Majesty the Queen has been graciously pleased to become the Patroness of this Society, and has subscribed £100 to its funds (cheers); Lord Granville has also authorised me to express his good wishes for the new institution, and has subscribed £20 (cheers). His Highness the Khedive has also been graciously pleased to take an interest in the Home and has promised to subscribe (applause). You will also, I am sure, be glad to know that the Prime Minister, Nubar Pasha, and Madame Nubar, have kindly consented to have their names on the Committee, and his Excellency to-day proves the warm interest he takes in the matter by his presence here (cheers). In conclusion I am confident that I can commend to you this

home as a really sound practical measure. I feel sanguine that it will be eventually productive of much good (cheers).

Sir EVELYN concluded by moving "That this meeting cordially approve of the proposal to establish a Home for Freed Women Slaves in Cairo."

Lord HOUGHTON in seconding the proposal said that all questions affecting the relations of East and West had a profound interest for him. The English occupation of India had invested these topics with special importance to them. He echoed the sentiment of one of their poets who said:—

"He hailed the birth of good  
That should be born  
From marriage of the western earth  
With natives of the morn."

Considering what sort of marriage it was likely to be between the East and the West, reminded him of one of Sheridan's plays, in which a lady wishing to decide a young relative not to yield to a juvenile passion told him that a marriage should begin with a little aversion. Nevertheless he thought there was no man who could doubt that the English occupation of India had conferred the greatest benefits upon that great country. He felt the greatest possible pleasure in associating himself with the objects of the meeting. As Englishmen they felt a patriotic interest in the manumission of the Slave. At the same time he hoped that the Committee in the management of this Home would take the greatest possible care to do nothing that could interfere with the customs or offend the feelings or even the prejudices of the people of the country. (Cheers.) They must indeed never lose sight of the fact that they might do more evil than good if they did anything to wound the feelings of the Egyptian people. (Cheers.) The resolution was carried unanimously.

Professor SHELDON AMOS entered into an account of what had been done in the establishment of the Home and of the measures still necessary to be taken for its complete realisation.

He moved that the following ladies and gentlemen be constituted an Executive Committee, and that they be empowered to add to their number, to nominate (if they see fit) a General Committee, and to take all necessary



steps to establish and manage the proposed Home:—

Sir Evelyn Baring, President and Chairman of Committee; Sir B. Maxwell, H. E. Nubar Pasha and Madame Nubar; Lady Baring; Col. and Mrs. Scott Moncrieff; Mrs. Clifford Lloyd; Mrs. C. M. Watson; Dr. Crookshank; Professor Schweinfurth; Mr. Borg; Col. Gibbons; Mr. Colbeck; Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Amos.

Sir BENSON MAXWELL supported the motion and very cordially endorsed the remarks that had fallen from Lord Houghton as to the spirit in which the Home should be managed.

Mr. CLIFFORD LLOYD bore testimony to the zealous efforts which Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Amos had made towards the formation of this Home. After several conversations with them on the subject he had written to his friend Mr. Forster, M.P., who very warmly took up the subject, and, as the result of their efforts, £800 had been promised towards their first year's expenses and £400 towards the second year. These were in annual subscriptions. Through the efforts of Mrs. Amos the Lord Mayor of London was about to hold a meeting at the Mansion House on behalf of the Home. Mr. Lloyd dwelt on the special difficulty of dealing with certain classes of female slaves for whom, unless a home were provided, it was utterly impossible for any one to say what they could do. (Cheers.)

The resolution was carried *nem con.*

His Excellency NUBAR PASHA, in moving a vote of thanks to the Chairman, of whom he spoke as not merely the President, but as one of the founders of this scheme, referred in terms of warm appreciation to the broad, liberal, and sympathetic spirit of the remarks of Lord Houghton.

Mr. MOBERLY BELL seconded the vote of thanks, which was adopted by acclamation.

In replying, Sir Evelyn Baring fully accepted the excellent recommendation made by Lord Houghton. He also cordially endorsed the tribute which Mr. Clifford Lloyd had paid to Mrs. Amos for her untiring zeal in the movement.

*Egyptian Gazette*, March 31.

The opportune presence in England of Mrs. SHELDON AMOS (one of the earliest originators of the movement in Egypt, and a Member of

the Committee in Cairo), has given the movement a fresh impetus, resulting in the meeting about to be held in the Mansion House, under the presidency of the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor. This meeting will be held under the auspices of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery, and the Aborigines Protection Societies. The Anti-Slavery Society has provided office accommodation and clerical labour since the commencement of the work in December last, and Mr. F. W. Chesson, the well-known and able Secretary of the Aborigines Protection Society, has kindly given his valuable services in forming a Committee of Arrangement for the successful carrying out of the Meeting.

One of the principal objects of the Meeting will probably be to form a permanent London Committee, to act in concert with the Cairo Committee, and to collect funds for the support of the Home. Up to the present moment the following subscriptions and donations have been promised:—

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN .. £100

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| G. H. Fox, Esq. .. ..                 | 1  | 0  | 0  |
| C. P. Gibson, Esq. ... ..             | 1  | 0  | 0  |
| Sums under 20s. about .. ..           | 5  | 0  | 0  |

### FIGHTING ON THE CONGO.

In our last number, page 67, we reprinted from the *Standard*, without comment, a report that hostilities had broken out between the Natives and Europeans on the Lower Congo. We are now glad to state, on high authority, that this report is incorrect.

### SLAVERY IN EGYPT.

THE following despatch from Sir E. Baring, respecting Slavery in Egypt, was published as a Parliamentary paper on the 5th inst. :—

Sir E. Baring to Earl Granville.

(Received March 4.)

Cairo, Feb. 25, 1884.

My Lord,—I have the honour to reply to your lordship's despatch of the 4th ult.

If I do not in the present despatch go very fully into the question of Slavery, I trust that your lordship will not consider that I fail in any way to appreciate the importance of the subject, or that I am not earnestly desirous to assist, so far as it may be in my power to do so, in the execution of such measures as may eventually lead to the complete abolition of Slavery in Egypt.

Your lordship has called upon General Gordon to report upon the measures which, in his opinion, may advantageously be taken to check the increased activity in the Slave-trade from the Soudan, which may be expected to result from the withdrawal of the Egyptian Government from that country.

I do not, therefore, in the present despatch propose to enter into nearly all the points which would be involved in a thorough and exhaustive discussion of the subject. On many of these points General Gordon will be able to speak with far greater knowledge and experience than any to which I can pretend. In respect to others it appears to me that some while must yet elapse before it will be possible to decide definitely upon the best measures to be taken in view of the changed relations which will for the future exist between the Egypt and the Soudan.

Upon certain branches of the subject, however, I am already in a position to offer a definite opinion.

It has been very frequently pointed out that so long as the demand for Slaves exists, the supply will be forthcoming.

The question I propose to consider is the best means which can be adopted with a view to checking the demand for Slaves in Egypt.

Lord Dufferin, in his report of the 6th February, 1883, said :—"Slavery might be

abolished by Khedivial decree, but a convention is so much more formal and binding, that it would seem preferable. I would, therefore, propose that a new convention be entered into between Great Britain and Egypt, by which Slavery would entirely cease in Egypt and its dependencies seven years after the date of signature. This would entail no great hardship on the Slave-owners, and get rid of the question of compensation."

After careful consideration, I am of opinion that it would not be possible to abolish Slavery by a Khedivial decree or by a convention. Slavery does not exist in Egypt by virtue of any act of the Executive Government. It is recognised by the Mahomedan religious law, which could not be abrogated by a mere declaration in a decree or convention to the effect that Slavery was abolished. Under that law a Slave cannot marry or inherit property without the consent of the master. The new native tribunals are obliged to recognise the status of Slavery. I consulted Sir Benson Maxwell on the power of these tribunals, and I have the honour to enclose a copy of his reply. "If," he says, "a Slave was to sue his master for beating him, I presume the Court would have to decide whether the beating was allowed by the Mahomedan law of master and Slave. If the Slave died rich, the master would inherit, to the exclusion of the wife and children of the Slave."

I have also consulted Mr. Sheldon Amos. His views as regards the present state of the law agree with those of Sir Benson Maxwell.

I have no doubt as to the most effective remedy which could be applied to this state of things. If an enactment were passed similar to Act V., 1843, of the Indian Legislature, a blow would be struck at the institution of Slavery in Egypt which would almost certainly before long prove fatal. That Act declared:—(1) That no rights arising out of an alleged property in the person and services of another as a Slave should be enforced by any civil or Criminal Court or magistrate within the territories of the East India Company. (2) That no person who may have acquired property by his own industry, or by the exercise of any art, calling, or profession, or by inheritance, assignment, gift, or bequest, should be dispossessed of such property or prevented from taking possession thereof on the ground that such person, or that the person

from whom the property may have been derived, may have been a Slave. (3) That any act which would be a penal offence if done to a free man should be equally an offence if done to any person on the pretext of his being in a condition of Slavery.

An enactment of this sort would involve bringing under the jurisdiction of the tribunals a portion of the Mahomedan personal law, which includes guardianship, marriage, and divorce, and succession, whether testamentary or intestate.

While, however, I have no doubt as to the most effectual method which could be adopted to attain the object in view, I have equally little doubt that it would be most unwise to attempt at present the introduction of so radical a reform as that indicated above. The difficulties with which we have to contend in Egypt at present are sufficiently great without adding to them. I fully sympathise with the view generally entertained by Englishmen on this subject, but it is also necessary to consider the question from the point of view of local circumstances and of local opinion. It cannot be denied that there is at present great discontent among all classes in Egypt. The people, moreover, have not remained altogether indifferent to the successes of the Mahdi. Any measures likely to lead to a recrudescence of Mahomedan fanaticism is much to be deprecated.

Under these circumstances, I am of opinion that it would be most unwise at present to adopt a measure which would put every Mahomedan in the country against us. I say advisedly every Mahomedan in the country, for even those who are not interested in the maintenance of Slavery would resent on religious grounds that interference in the Mahomedan law which, as I have already stated, would, in my opinion, be the most effectual method to check the demand for Slaves. It is also to be borne in mind that the Legislative Assembly, to whom the matter would of necessity have to be referred, would certainly oppose to the utmost of its ability any enactment at all similar to the Indian Act of 1843.

I have spoken to some of the leading religious authorities among the Mahomedan community of Cairo on this subject. The present is not an opportune moment to invite their co-operation, but it might, perhaps, be

possible at some future time to obtain their assistance so far as to get them to use their influence in the way of encouraging the liberation of Slaves as a voluntary act. This, as is well known, would be in harmony with the teaching of Mahomet. A well known Indian Mahomedan lawyer, Syud Amir Ali, says:—"The enfranchisement of Slaves was pronounced (by Mahomet) to be the highest act of virtue." ("Personal Law of the Mahomedans," p. 36.)

But further than this I feel convinced that they would not go. Any attempt to override the Mahomedan law and to enforce the liberation of Slaves would be strongly resented, and would certainly be opposed by the religious leaders of the Mahomedan population. "Mahomet," many of them have said to me, "although he did not encourage Slavery, did not prohibit it; we, therefore, cannot prohibit it."

I do not say that the state of things which I have described above is a reason why Slavery should always continue to exist in Egypt. In spite of its theoretical immutability, even the Mahomedan religious law has been obliged to some extent to conform itself to the spirit of modern times. For instance, under that law a Mahomedan who becomes a Christian should be put to death. I pointed out to a leading Mahomedan lawyer here, who is a man of considerable intelligence, that conversions to Christianity occasionally took place, and that, of course, in no part of the Ottoman dominions would the death of a convert be tolerated. I asked him how he reconciled this with the alleged impossibility of changing the Mahomedan law. He replied that the Mahomedan judicial and religious authorities had nothing to do with the execution of a judicial sentence, which only concerned the Executive Government.

Possibly if it were made quite clear that an enactment such as the Indian Act of 1843 had to be passed, some ingenious sophism of this sort would be found which would sanction the change without apparently violating the Mahomedan law. But, if not, a time might come when, if the Mahomedan law could not conform itself to the spirit of modern times, so much the worse for the Mahomedan law. It would have to go to the wall. I do not, however, think that that moment has yet arrived in Egypt. Some "time and patience," as Sir

Benson Maxwell says, are required. It is to be borne in mind that the English Government had been established for the best part of a century in India before they ventured to pass the Act of 1843. I do not say that, before the British Army of occupation is withdrawn, an effort should not be made to eradicate Slavery in Egypt altogether. That is a point on which I should wish to reserve my opinion. For the present, however, I consider that the predominant influence of Her Majesty's Government in Egypt may most usefully be employed in ameliorating the lot of the so-called free man, whose condition, save in name, is often much worse than that of the Slave, and that, as far as any such radical solution as that which I have discussed above is concerned, the question of Slavery should be allowed to stand over.

This expectant attitude does not, however, by any means imply that nothing can be done towards the abolition of Slavery short of so radical a measure as legislation in the sense of the Indian Act of 1843. I propose to allude in the present despatch to one only of the measures which I believe would be productive of some good.

I am not quite sure whether it is fully understood in England that any Slave who applies to the British Consulate or to one of the bureaux of manumission, of which there are four in the country, can at once obtain his freedom. Appendix No. 4 to Lord Dufferin's Report shows that from August, 1877, to the 30th November, 1882, 8,092 Slaves, of whom considerably more than one-half were women, were freed through the action of these bureaux. In a subsequent despatch I will furnish your lordship with later figures, showing the number of Slaves freed since November, 1882. It may be said, therefore, that the fact of one remaining in a condition of Slavery must be due to one of three causes—either they do not wish to acquire their freedom, or they are unable to escape from their masters with a view to obtaining it, or else they do not know the means by which their freedom may be obtained. How far the two latter reasons exercise a deterrent effect upon the action of the bureaux I am unable to say with confidence. Mr. Borg, however, who speaks with great experience on this subject, is of opinion that throughout the harems the means by which freedom may be obtained are well known.



As regards the first reason—viz., indisposition to regain freedom, it may be that the fact, which applies especially to the cases of female Slaves, that when a Slave has gained her freedom she but too often finds she has no means of getting a livelihood, and is, therefore, of necessity plunged into a life of misery, if not of vice—is one of the causes which hinder Slaves from applying to the bureaux of manumission. Some influential ladies and gentlemen, both here and in England, have recently been endeavouring to establish a home for female Slaves, with the object of taking charge of them immediately after they regain their freedom, and of eventually providing them with employment. I think this scheme is one which deserves every encouragement. If the requisite funds can be found, it is likely to do much good. I may mention that I am shortly about to preside at a meeting with the object of arranging some preliminary measures in connection with this scheme. A considerable sum has already been subscribed. I enclose a further note on this branch of the subject, which I have received from Sir Benson Maxwell, and which may prove of interest to your lordship.

Your lordship will, of course, understand that the manumission bureaux, although they may do a great deal of good, can never insure freedom to the Slave in the same manner as it would be insured were legislation undertaken in the sense of the Indian Act of 1843. Manumission prevents the Slave from being employed by his former master against his will, but it does not and cannot give the Slave those civil rights from which, as I have already explained, he is debarred by the Mahomedan law.

I have already stated the reasons which render it, in my opinion, unadvisable to follow at present the precedent set by the Indian Legislature, and thus adopt the most effectual method for granting to the released Slave the full civil rights of the free man. To these reasons I may add one other. The new tribunals have only just begun to work. Should they gain the confidence of the public—and I see no reason why they should not do so—it is quite possible that a spontaneous desire will grow among the Mahomedan population to allow disputed points connected with succession and other subjects, which are now dealt with by the Mekkemé, to be brought within the jurisdiction of the new tribunals.

If once the people get to trust the new Courts, and to feel that the justice to be obtained from them is in every way preferable to that administered by the Cadi, the day cannot be far distant when the personal law of the Mahomedan will be subjected to the Native Courts. Should this result ensue, it will, of course, be far easier to deal with the question of Slavery in the sense of the Indian Act of 1843.

I have, &c.,

E. BARING.

Inclosure 1.

Sir P. Benson Maxwell to Sir E. Baring.

Cairo, February 12, 1884.

My dear Sir Evelyn,—I do not see how the Slavery question can be dealt with without bringing the "Statut Personnel" under the tribunals.

Slavery is still law in Egypt. The trade in Slaves was prohibited by some law which was promulgated before the Convention; the Egyptian Government engaged to prohibit traffic in Slaves from August, 1884. The way in which that engagement was carried out was by prohibiting "*la vente des esclaves nègres ou Abyssins, de famille en famille*," between Alexandria and Assouan, and prohibiting "*le trafic des esclaves blancs et blanches*" in all Egypt and its dependencies. The sale is prohibited, but the *status* of Slave exists. If a Slave sued his master for beating him I presume the Court would have to decide whether the beating was allowed by the Mahomedan law of master and Slave. If the Slave died rich the master would inherit to the exclusion of wife and children of the Slave. There is no exit from this state of things but some such Act as the Indian V. of 1843.

On the policy of stirring up this question just now I feel with you.

Only a month or two ago the proprietor of the *Egyptian Gazette* asked me what was the state of the law on the subject, as some writer had pressed it upon him, and I recommended a little time and patience.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) P. BENSON MAXWELL.

Inclosure 2.

Sir P. Benson Maxwell to Sir E. Baring,

Cairo, February 12, 1884.

My dear Sir Evelyn,—I ought to have mentioned in my note that the bureau charged



with the manumission of Slaves gives a certificate of manumission to every Slave who applies for one ; so that Slavery is voluntary, at least with those who know of this bureau.

I am told that when it was first established crowds of Slaves flocked to it. But many of them soon found that freedom meant starvation, and the fear of starvation has since kept numbers in Slavery.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) P. BENSON MAXWELL.

### MR. FORSTER AND THE SLAVE TRADE.

THE RT. HON. W. E. FORSTER concluded a masterly speech in the House of Commons on March 10th, with the following powerful words, which will, we think, strongly appeal to the Anti-Slavery feeling of England :—

“I have more confidence in what General Gordon does himself than in what he recommends others to do. I was, I confess, rather staggered at the notorious Slave proclamation (hear, hear), which must, I fear, be taken to deal with Slave dealing, as well as with Slave holding (hear, hear). I am not going to blame General Gordon for that proclamation until I know the reason. I know the wonderful administrative ability of the man, and I know how he regards the Slave trade, that he would gladly lay down his life to stop it. This confidence is in Gordon's personality, and not in what he instructs others to do when he is not by their side. What must the necessary consequences be if such a man as Zebehr is placed in power? First of all, Gordon would be gone. His wonderful influence would be gone. If Gordon could remain, I should look on the future of the Soudan with confidence. I believe he would do great work in a short time at little cost to Egypt, that he would produce a beneficent Government, and that he would strike a blow against slavery such as has never been struck before. But that is not what we have before us. I do not know whether the Government have ever asked him if he would remain. (Hear, hear.) What we have to deal with is different. Do not let the Government suppose, however, that they will get rid of the responsi-

bility simply by placing Zebehr in Gordon's place. (Cheers.) We cannot let it alone ; we cannot let that man alone if we put him there. If the Government put him there they are responsible. (Renewed cheers.) He would give freedom to the slave trade, and its cruelties would be revived under his rule. Remember where you would put him. You would put him in a place where he would be more likely to do harm than in any other place in the world. Khartoum is a remarkable place. It is the great mart of the slave trade. It is the high road to the Red Sea, where the outlet is found for the slaves, and it is at a favourite spot on the Nile where the slaves are easily brought floating down the great branches of the river in vast cargoes of men, women, and children, and thence they are sent to Lower Egypt. I do not know whether the Government contemplate this course, but I think it is time to see if they do contemplate it. It is necessary to see that they do not commit the house and the country without giving us an opportunity of forming our own opinion upon it. If they do contemplate it, then indeed this would be a remarkable result of our occupation of Egypt, and a remarkable fulfilment of the instructions of Lord Granville to General Gordon. We cannot be perfectly sure that in recommending Zebehr General Gordon may not change his mind, for he has already changed his mind with regard to the restoration of the small sultans in the Soudan. (Hear, hear.) He has altered his ideas as to leaving the Mahdi out of his calculations. No doubt he had very good reasons for changing that policy. I do not blame him. His difficulties are far beyond anything we can imagine or comprehend here. I do not think a large portion of the inhabitants of this country will regard the recent conduct of Her Majesty's Government in Egypt as being consistent with the historical policy of this country with regard to the African races, and with regard to the Slave trade (cheers). For generations we have been the champions of the Slave in every part of the world, and one of our historical traditions has been that we have never ceased for many years to do what we could to stop this terrible evil. We have pressed upon and persuaded other countries to follow our example in this respect. And I am sure we shall in this matter lose much of our moral force if we continue in the course which has been taken.

We should certainly lose our power of argument with the Portuguese with regard to the continuance of the slave trade on the Congo, unless we can give them reasons based on arguments far more overpowering than any that can be drawn from our own recent policy in Egypt, and the arguments that have been adduced in its support in this House. (Cheers.)

## THE CONGO.

### MEMORIAL OF THE ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

My Lord,—The Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society have read with deep interest the draft of a Treaty with Portugal for the future regulation and delimitation of her possessions and of her claims in South Western Africa.

While the Committee feel grateful to Her Majesty's Government for the careful provisions they have made in the Treaty for the Suppression of the Slave-trade, they, nevertheless, hold strong objections to its ratification, on the following grounds:—

(1.) That the extensive regions already claimed to be occupied by Portugal have for ages been devoted to the prosecution of the Slave-trade, both on the part of her own subjects and of Arab marauders.

(2.) That such subjects of Portugal as exist in these countries have been largely supplied by the expatriation of convicts from the Mother Country, conducing greatly to the elements of crime and disorder.

(3.) That long experience has shown that any control over these regions on the part of the Portuguese Home Government is of the feeblest character, in consequence of which the Slave-trade provisions of this Treaty must necessarily to a large extent prove ineffective.

(4.) That in confirmation of these allegations, the Committee are able to show, on unquestionable evidence, that at this time the Slave-trade is to a considerable amount being carried on by the Portuguese from their settlements of Loanda to the Islands of St. Thomé and Principe, and even to the Cape de Verds.

Under such conditions the Committee would look with great apprehension on the acknowledgment of any claims on the part of Portugal to any territories which have, heretofore, been

disallowed by Great Britain. Specially would they do so in respect of any claim by Portugal of a jurisdiction over any part of the River Congo.

In view of the ineffective and corrupt character of the Administration of Portugal in her African territories, the Committee are compelled to regard such an occupation as obstructive to any real suppression of the Slave-trade, and subversive of any hope of its being now supplanted in those regions of Africa by a larger extension of legitimate commerce and of a Christian civilisation.

On behalf of the Anti-Slavery Committee,

We are, with much respect,

ARTHUR PEASE, *President.*

EDMUND STURGE, *Chairman.*

JOSEPH ALLEN, *Treasurer.*

CHAS. H. ALLEN, *Secretary.*

55, New Broad Street.

12th April, 1844.

To the Right Hon. Earl Granville, K.G.

### MR. BENTLEY'S LETTER.

TO THE EDITOR OF *The Times*.

Sir,—Having just returned home from Stanley Pool after five years on the Congo River in connexion with the Baptist Missionary Society, I am surprised and distressed beyond measure to learn that a treaty is signed and awaiting ratification, by which our Government recognises the Portuguese sovereignty over the mouth of the Congo River and adjacent country.

Having so recently arrived, I can, of course, know little of the feeling at home that has induced our Government to take such a step, while the best inquiries I can make fail to supply the remotest information as to the advantages we are to gain for ourselves or others by what appears to one uninitiated a suicidal policy. Perhaps some light from the river itself may be of service in the moment of danger.

It is an undisputed fact that a Portuguese navigator, Diego Cam, discovered the mouth of the Congo River some 400 years ago (probably in 1484), but when the missionaries of the Baptists Missionary Society landed at Banana at the mouth of the river in 1879, we found no signs of Portuguese sovereignty,

still less of public works ; no lights, buoys, wharfs, &c., in fact not the most shadowy trace of any Portuguese. Perhaps the absence of any such signs of improvements is the true mark of their power and sovereignty. There was a Portuguese factory or two, but the most important establishments were Dutch. Our own and other Governments have persistently refused to recognise any Portuguese rights. From 1848 to 1877 we have made direct treaties with the native chiefs, recognising their independence, and traders have held ground and conducted their business, paying only a nominal "customs" to the chiefs.

Our mission under the same circumstances has never paid one penny of duties of any kind, and what is more important, we have not in any way been hampered by vexatious laws, restrictions, duties, and the thousand-and-one difficulties that would be thrown in our way were the Portuguese in power.

There is a stipulation as to the limit interiorwards of Portuguese authority, which is drawn at Nokki, but ocean steamers cannot pass Ponta de Lenha, some 25 miles only from the mouth of the river. Thence the channel is most intricate and difficult, and nothing drawing more than 18ft. could pass.

The Portuguese then are to place a toll-bar across this grand waterway, which has been shown by Mr. Stanley to be the key to Central Africa, and to the development of which the benevolent King Leopold of the Belgians has given so loyally hundreds of thousands of pounds. There is an arrangement as to bonding things in transit to beyond Nokki, but this is a state of things which cannot be maintained.

If any rights are conceded to Portugal at the mouth of the river she will claim to the interior, certainly to far beyond Nokki. This is only the thin end of the wedge. The first effect of this treaty would be to drive all the factories to above Nokki, and Portugal would lose her newly-acquired revenue ; then she will seize the whole, then we shall either have to fight or submit. The Portuguese duties are excessive, and we have no security against the levy of duties according to the Angola tariff after ten years. Having obtained her point, Portugal will be deaf to arguments, and when the time comes for the

revision of tariff we shall realize fully the result of this treaty.

Transport to Stanley Pool is expensive, and the reduced but still heavy duties of the Mozambique tariff which are to be imposed will render our mission much more expensive. We have to barter and to pay for transport in goods, and on these goods, which become thus the principal item of our expenditure, the tariff levies from 20 to 34 per cent., indeed, on one important item (the beads of the currency) the duty will amount to 40 per cent.

The financial resources of our missionary societies are now strained by the demands made from all quarters of the globe. Such increased cost at this time would be a disaster to our mission, and its effect on trade in the newly-discovered regions would be ruinous, while the restrictions and vexations placed on us in such an out-of-the-way place would be intolerable, and any wrong would take years to rectify.

I came home *via* Lisbon, and at my hotel learned of a gentleman who had just left. His son had found a pearl fishery on the southwest coast in Portuguese territory, and sought permission, &c., to fish. For two months he had urged his son's case in vain, put off, referred about, postponed, until he had given it up in disgust ; so would it be for us.

We are simply consenting to the imposition of a Portuguese blockade on this river, which is now taking its lawful place as one of the most important rivers of the world, and concerning which Lord Granville wrote, under date March 15, 1883 :—

"Her Majesty's Government have never receded, and do not now recede, from their contention that the claim of Portugal is not established, and that Portugal has not had any right."

There is another serious aspect which may be perhaps considered outside of a missionary's remarks. We are recognising the rights of Portugal when other nations will not. The feeling in France and elsewhere is very strong against the treaty, and we shall surely find ourselves on the side of Portugal embroiled in serious trouble, perhaps worse. There seem to be two ideas which have led our Government to take this remarkable step. The one being that some control is needed to preserve law and order. The other that by this means the Slave Trade may be finally suppressed.

As to the supposed necessity for the control of the lawlessness and cruelty of irresponsible whites, in old slaving times it was needed, but to-day, at any rate, it is different. There is a public opinion on the Congo, and various like forces have altered things. Certainly if the Portuguese were in authority foreigners might be "looked up" a little bit more than they are, but if any nationality has been disgraced on the river it has been the Portuguese. Would corrupt officials be a check on Portuguese excesses? It is a poor remedy that is suggested.

As for Slavery, its remains are now very short-lived on the Congo, while if the Portuguese came into power it would be revived everywhere under specious forms, such as interminable ten years' contracts, perhaps even not so decently covered as that. Lord Mayo has just thrown light on Portuguese doings. He has told us how Slaves are being shipped monthly to San Thomé with scarcely an attempt at concealment; that I know cannot be disputed. Plantations are worked wholesale in Angola under the *engagé* system. By a simple change of name, by the simplest manœuvre, Slavery becomes lawful. Yet in our innocence of heart we are to ask Portugal, forsooth, to assist in putting an end to this hateful system which she unblushingly maintains. How can we with the past experience believe in Portuguese assertions and promises? Why then do we depart from all precedent and reverse the policy of former Governments? Will the Christian churches and philanthropic bodies allow the door to Central Africa to be thus closed without protest? Will our men of business allow this immense field now so rapidly opening to commerce to be blockaded by such a power as Portugal?

Instead of stopping Slavery, we start it again in a form uncontrollable. Instead of security and government we are to have the Portuguese parody. Our mission will be hampered, restricted, and worse, while from £2,000 to £3,000 per year will be added to our expenses, which might otherwise be applied to the maintenance of several stations. The philanthropic efforts of King Leopold will be thwarted, a promising trade will be paralyzed, and the civilization of Central Africa hopelessly thrown back. The London, Liverpool and Manchester Chambers of Commerce are looking

after their own interests and have taken action. It is a matter demanding also the immediate attention of the friends of missions and civilization. Far better that the River Congo be forever neutralized, and placed under some International Commission, as the Danube, while a moderate *ad valorem* duty, say 2 per cent., would be ample to defray the cost of such control; the imports into the district being estimated at one million, and its exports at two millions.

So long as the river was considered unimportant we obstinately refused to recognise Portuguese claim. Why, then, do we reverse this policy as soon as the Congo is discovered and proved to be the doorway to Central Africa, to hand it over to a Government which strives with Turkey for the honourable position of last among European Powers, a nation of which Livingstone wrote:—"The Portuguese employ their power to perpetuate the miserable condition of the country, closing to foreigners places which they have not themselves the strength to hold for any good purpose" ("Exploration of the Zambesi," p. 129)?

Yours, &c.,

W. HOLMAN BENTLEY, Missionary  
from the Congo.

19, Castle-street, Holborn, April 9.

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#### RT. HON. W. E. FORSTER'S LETTER.

TO THE EDITOR OF *The Times*.

Sir,—I venture to trouble you with a few words on the much-discussed Congo treaty, in consequence of the telegram in *The Times* of Saturday stating that "the Senate of the United States has passed a resolution recognizing the International African Association on the Congo River, and intended as a protest against the Anglo-Portuguese Treaty."

There are many disputed questions involved in this Treaty, but I imagine there will be a general concurrence with Lord Granville's statement in his despatch on March 15 of last year to M. D'Antas, the Portuguese Minister, that "there could be no advantage in concluding a treaty which would not be accepted by other Powers whose acceptance would be indispensable before it could come into operation;" and Lord Granville rightly argues that "Portugal would be in no way benefited if



England were to stand alone in her recognition. The result of such isolated action would be that English traders would probably place themselves under the flag of a nation withholding its recognition, and the engagement between the two countries would be absolutely unproductive." (See Parliamentary Paper, 1884, p. 14.)

M. D'Antas, indeed, in his reply to this despatch, states that the Portuguese Government "has not the slightest fear that the sovereignty of Portugal, the Treaty once made with Great Britain, would not be recognised by any other nation," and adds that France, Holland, and Germany have "more or less explicitly recognised" these rights of sovereignty; and I gather from many statements in the public press that this assertion by the Portuguese Government is taken for granted; but facts do not appear to me to warrant this conclusion. First, let me observe that a recognition of Portugal's rights of sovereignty does not necessarily imply such concurrence with the Treaty as Lord Granville considered indispensable; but as regards the sovereignty, what is the information we gain from the diplomatic correspondence? First take Holland. The Dutch have important factories on the Congo. M. D'Antas gives us as proof of the acknowledgment of their sovereignty by the Dutch Government a despatch in January of last year, in which the Dutch Minister claims the most favoured nation clause; but this claim begins with these words:—"It (the Dutch Government) hopes that Portuguese authority once established in these regions"—viz., the banks of the Congo—no special immunity will be granted to any other nation. Now, in all discussions with regard to this Treaty it must be kept in mind that the Portuguese authority is not established on the Congo. Probably this is the first Commercial Treaty which is based, not on facts, but on possibilities. A few days ago Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, in reply to a question I asked him in Parliament, informed me that "no portion of the territory in question is in the occupation of Portugal or under her rule."

I need not say that the Treaty does not establish Portuguese authority, though it does sanction a claim of sovereignty, which hitherto we have persistently denied, over chiefs whose independence we have acknowledged by nu-

merous treaties; and I must here express my surprise that sanction has been given to the destruction of this independence without any attempt even to ascertain the feelings of these chiefs; but I do not wish to dwell in this letter on this part of the question.

I am now dealing with facts rather than with our duty, and, so far as I can learn, the facts are that the natives are strongly averse to Portuguese rule, and, as regards Holland, that the Dutch Government is unfettered by any past admission until or unless the Portuguese invasion be completed, and that there is, judging from the Dutch newspapers, a strong feeling in Holland against the Treaty. We already know the views of the Americans, who, though they have no factories on the Congo, have a growing trade with the natives on its banks.

There remains France. Lord Granville, in his rejoinder to M. D'Antas of June 1, uses these words:—

"I will only add, in conclusion, that the information in possession of Her Majesty's Government as to the general recognition by others countries of the sovereignty of Portugal over the territory on the West Coast, with which the Convention deals, does not support the view of Senhor Serpa, who considers that he may lay claim to the recognition of France.

"M. Challemeil-Lacour, in a recent conversation with Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, distinctly denied that the pretensions of Portugal to that part of the Coast are admitted by France."

Lord Granville concludes this despatch with this weighty statement:—

"I refer to this as showing that the argument of which I made use in my note of the 15th March, as to the futility of a mere dual arrangement between the two countries, unrecognized by other Powers, is strongly fortified by this statement of the views of the French Government. It is to be hoped, however, that the assent of all civilized Powers would be accorded to the provisions of such a Convention as that now under consideration."

This is the last allusion to foreign Powers by Lord Granville in the diplomatic correspondence lately presented to Parliament, and as there is no mention in the Treaty of the concurrence of other Powers, I can only suppose that our Government imagined and hoped

that its terms would in themselves secure their assent. But is this the case?

The Dutch traders object as strongly on commercial grounds as do the Liverpool merchants and the Manchester manufacturers.

We know the view taken in the United States, and I see it constantly stated that there are still strong objections in France to the Treaty. Surely, then, the views of the other Powers interested should be officially ascertained before the Treaty be ratified. Let me make one remark on the American resolution as telegraphed by our correspondent. It is stated that this resolution recognizes the International African Association on the Congo River, and I am informed that the United States Government will at once recognise its flag. Whatever comes of the Treaty with Portugal, there would, to my mind, be many advantages in our Government taking the same course, but I will not now dwell upon them.

All that I now wish to press through your columns is that facts as they stand strongly enforce Lord Granville's declaration that the acceptance by other Powers of the Congo Treaty is indispensable before it comes into operation, that there is reason to believe that at present this acceptance by other Powers is not forthcoming, and that, therefore, the ratification of the Treaty should, at any rate, be delayed.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. E. FORSTER.

80, Eccleston-square, April 14.

*Papers read at a Meeting of the  
Royal Geographical Society on  
February 11th, 1884.*

By Major-Gen. Sir F. J. GOLDSMID, C.B.,

AND

E. DELMAR MORGAN, Esq.

These two interesting papers, which are printed in full in the April number of *The Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society*, are worthy of careful study at the present time. Unfortunately our limited space only allows us to make a very few short extracts.

Sir F. J. GOLDSMID introduced the subject as follows :—

Though it may be difficult at the present moment to draw the attention of Englishmen generally to any other portion of Africa than that comprising Egypt and the Soudan, there is no doubt that some acquaintance with its western coast, and the splendid river traversing and retraversing the Equator, in the heart of the vast Dark Continent, cannot be other than desirable to politicians as well as geographers. My personal experience has been too brief to enable me to enter, with any fulness, into a description of the interesting region to which the programme for this evening more especially points; but I have the satisfaction of knowing that the paper which will presently be read to you by my late associate Mr. Delmar Morgan will be of a more practical and comprehensive character than my own, and better fitted for the hearing and reading of the Fellows of this great Society. Indeed, it is only as a prelude to Mr. Delmar Morgan's account of his journey that I venture to submit these notes at all.

On return from a long sojourn in Egypt in May last year, I had almost made up my mind to do what I had been looking forward to for, literally, scores of years, that is, to settle down definitely in England; but such is the uncertainty of man's devices, that little more than a month elapsed before I found myself engaged to take a sea voyage to Africa and visit the Congo. I purposely avoid any official account of my mission, beyond stating that it was performed on behalf of the International African Association and Comité du Haut Congo, titles which, however interpreted by the ignorant or hostile, honestly represent a philanthropic and non-commercial undertaking. To those unacquainted with the origin of the movement which produced these important agencies, I would commend perusal of a pamphlet designated "The White Line across the Dark Continent." I need only now recall the facts that the first conference on the subject was held at Brussels in September, 1876; that the first Executive Committee of the International Association was composed of H.M. the King of the Belgians, Dr. Nachtigal, M. de Quatrefages, and one well known and honoured in this Society, whose present illness must be a matter of general regret and

sympathy, Sir Bartle Frere; and that, as the work was for the first two years confined to the eastern coast of the African continent, the Comité d'Etudes du Haut Congo was formed in November, 1878, to carry out exploration on the west. The object of this last body was, as set forth in the pamphlet, "to determine the practicability of establishing regular communication between the Lower Congo and the upper course of that river; and they wished, further, to ascertain whether it would be possible at some future time to establish commercial relations with the tribes inhabiting the basin of the Upper Congo, and to introduce European manufactures into that region in exchange for African products. The views and projects of the committee were inspired by purely philanthropic and scientific motives. It undertook to conduct exploration, but it had no intention of engaging in commercial operations. It therefore adopted the flag of the International Association, and agreed to erect stations of the same kind and for the same purposes as those which were about to be established on the eastern coast."

It is hoped that this brief explanation will suffice to prevent any confusion arising from the indiscriminate use of two titles for what is really one and the same enterprise. The Congo expedition is, in fact, not a mere offshoot, but part and parcel of the International African Association, whose blue flag with yellow star is now familiar and respected from Loango to Banana Point, and from Banana Point for some hundreds of miles inland.

Speaking of the possessions under that flag, a Member of the Lower House justly remarked, more than ten months ago, that no treaty made by this country with a European power "could be satisfactory which did not secure the most binding guarantees for the freedom of those international settlements which had been set up under the auspices of the King of the Belgians." The term "international" should be synonymous with "free" stations; and as these have been continuously maintained up to the present moment in the same generous spirit and by the same generous hand as thus publicly acknowledged in the spring of last year, I cannot but think that they merit the support and interest of the civilized world. \* \* \*

In Mr. DELMAR MORGAN's paper the following remarks appeared:—

One chief remarked that all white men who came to the Congo were criminals and outlaws, who were not allowed to live in their own country, and therefore came to seek their fortunes in Africa, an idea doubtless originating from the fact that the Portuguese formerly made a convict colony of their possessions in this part of the world—in fact, Angola is still their penal settlement.

Domestic slavery is a deeply-rooted institution among the natives of the Congo. Every chief has a number of dependants, over whom he exercises powers of life and death. We have seen the chief of Isanghila come down to the rocks below the station, accompanied by his wives and slaves, to spend the day there, his men setting basket traps to catch the half-stunned fish as they were dashed against the rocks by the violence of the current, his wives chewing sugar-cane, while he himself devoted his attention solely to a bottle of malafu or palm-wine. Apart from this group, behind one of the rocks, we came upon a lad handcuffed, with a log of wood fastened to his neck by a chain, one end trailing on the ground. This was a punishment for some offence he had committed, but it reminded us of the illustrations of slave gangs in the books of Livingstone and other African travellers.

The International Association has, during the last few years, accomplished a great work in opening out Africa. Upwards of 5,000 miles of navigable rivers are accessible from Stanley Pool; three steamers are already launched on its waters, and accompanied Stanley on his last expedition, while a fourth is on its way out.

As St. Petersburg was termed by Peter the Great the window through which Russia looked into Europe, so may Leopoldville be termed the window opened by Leopold II. through which Europe may look into the heart of Africa.

The Rev. HORACE WALLER said it was quite clear from the lucid sketch of the Congo which had been given that great difficulties would beset philanthropists, missionaries, travellers, and merchants in gaining the navigable part of the river. Much climbing



up stairs would have to be undergone before a good look was obtained out of the window into the interior of Africa. The question arose how the country was to be got through. It might be said it could be either traversed on foot or with mules, but he was sorry to say from his former experience on the east coast that the chief difficulty arose from a Western nation. He wanted to know what the position of Europeans who went out to the Congo would be with regard to Portugal. The question cropped up in the House of Commons last year, and there was a very hot debate upon it. If he was rightly informed the position was exactly this. Mr. Gladstone closed the debate last year by giving a positive assurance that even supposing it might be necessary during the recess to conclude a treaty with Portugal that treaty should not be ratified until ample opportunity had been afforded for holes to be picked in it if possible. He thought it was the duty of everybody who looked forward to the opening up of that great country to keep his eye upon the matter as it now stood. It was evident that as soon as a traveller entered the mouth of the Congo he must land and proceed over land. His goods must be disembarked, and if the journey had to be taken over Portuguese territory, Portugal would inevitably levy black mail to support her convicts, whose presence on the coast tended towards the destruction of everything like morality. If the English Government were to empty the convict establishment of Chatham into some station in Africa the last state of the place would be worse than the first; and it behoved everybody to get a sight of the treaty with Portugal as soon as possible.

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### ABYSSINIA.

My Lord,—The Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society desire to express the gratification with which they have learned that Her Majesty's Government has entered into negotiations with King John, of Abyssinia. The Committee have frequently expressed their sense of the importance, in the interest of the suppression of the Slave-Trade, of affording satisfaction to the desire of King John and his people for the possession of a port on the Red Sea, and they still hold the same view. They consider it most important to encourage the wish of the Abyssinians to enter into unrestricted intercourse with the Christian States of Europe—an intercourse which is impossible whilst they are shut out from access to the Sea.

Abyssinia has always professed herself hostile to the Slave-trade, from which her own people have suffered greatly. There can be little doubt that if her request for a port were granted, Abyssinia would readily enter into and loyally carry out a Treaty binding her to repress this traffic, and also to afford proper facilities for that legitimate commerce, which experience shows to be the best substitute for, and the best means of abolishing, the Slave-trade.

With regard to the political difficulties which have been supposed to stand in the way of the transfer of a port from Egypt to Abyssinia, the Committee would point out that Egypt can only lay claim to the territory which separates from the Red Sea, by virtue of very recent conquests, which have not been reported to, or occupied by, the Porte. On this subject they desire to call the attention of your lordship to the important letter of General Gordon, which appeared in the *Times* in January, 1881, (a copy of which, from the *Anti-Slavery Reporter* of February, 1881, re-accompanies this Memorial). This letter is also important as showing the opinion of so high an authority, as to the justice of the Abyssinian claims.

On behalf of, and by order of, the Committee,  
I am, my Lord,

Your lordship's obedient servant,

CHAS. H. ALLEN, *Secretary*.  
British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society,  
55, New Broad Street, London, E.C.,  
10th April, 1884.

To the Right Honorable, the Earl Granville,  
K.G., P.C., &c., Her Majesty's Principal  
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.



## MOROCCO.

A Correspondent writes from Tangier, March 13:—"Some ten or twelve days ago Senor Sebiani, a Spanish gentleman residing at Cadiz, met in the streets of Tangier a little Moor boy, who, although the son of a Slave, had become free through the death of his master. Touched with compassion at his forlorn condition, Senor Sebiani offered to take the boy into his service. The lad willingly consented, and they soon after left Tangier for Cadiz. To the surprise of both on landing at Gibraltar the police authorities took the boy away from the Spanish gentleman and sent him back to Tangier, where he will most likely be kidnapped and sold into slavery. It is supposed that this high-handed proceeding arose from some representations forwarded to Gibraltar from Tangier, but people are inquiring under what law the police in Gibraltar have taken forcible possession of the servant of a Spanish subject. There is no pretence that the boy was a Slave, and even had he been one his presence under shadow of the British flag would have made him free. On the contrary, it would seem that a free black has been taken from the protection of his master and placed by British officials in a position where the danger of his becoming a Slave is very great."—*The Times*, 20th March, 1884.

In reply to a question in the House of Commons on the 31st March, the Hon. E. Ashley, Under-Secretary for the Colonies, read a telegram which he had received from the Governor of Gibraltar, and which was to the following effect:—

"The account in *The Times* of the Moorish boy affair is not correct. The boy is six years of age, and was admittedly assisted by the Spaniard in question to run away surreptitiously from Tangier without the permission of his relations or of the Government, and landed at Gibraltar accompanied by the Spaniard. The Moorish Consul here, as well as Sir John Hay, asked that he might be detained and returned to Tangier to be restored to his guardians by Sir John Hay, which was done after consulting with the Attorney-General. The Spaniard was made fully acquainted with all these proceedings

and gave up the boy willingly, making no objection either personally or through the Spanish Consul. The boy is not a Slave, and is in possession of property at Tangier. The boy's family is under the protection of the Italian Minister at Tangier, who joined in Sir John Hay's request. A full report will go by post."

This report has not yet reached the Colonial Office.

We have written to our Tangier correspondent for further information, as we do not feel that the explanation is altogether satisfactory. It seems curious that a boy so lately a Slave should be in possession of property in Tangier, nor do we see why Her Majesty's Minister should join the Moorish Consul in requesting the Gibraltar police to seize the boy and take him from his master by force.

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COMPLETION OF MR. O'NEILL'S  
JOURNEY TO LAKE SHIRWA AND  
THE SOURCES OF THE LUJENDA.

WE learn by telegram from Mozambique, February 2nd, that Mr. O'Neill had safely returned from his important journey to Lake Shirwa. He has discovered that the Lujenda river has its sources in a small narrow lake to the north of Lake Shirwa. The following are the words of his telegram:—"Latitude observations along the northern shore of Lake Shirwa show the extreme northern limit to be 14° 59' S. The river Lujenda commences as a narrow stream in 14° 19' S. Between the parallels of 14° 19' and 14° 32' S, lies Lake Amaramba, the greatest breadth of which is one and a half to two miles. South of Lake Amaramba flows the river Msambiti connecting it with the lake and swamp Chioota 14° 52' S. On my return route I followed the valley of the Likungu from the Namuli Hills to 16° 15' S., and then striking east arrived at the coast at Angoche. The principal rivers crossed were the Likungu, the Mlela, the Muluga, the Liconya, and the Muli."—We are informed by a subsequent telegram sent through Sir James Anderson, Chairman of the Eastern Telegraph Company, that the continuation of Mr. O'Neill's narrative and observations had been despatched to England; the first part, relating to the outward route from Mozambique to Lake Shirwa, was forwarded via Blantyre and the river Shiré, and reached London early last month.

*Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society, March, 1884.*

## A STEAMER ON LAKE TANGANYIKA.

THE sections of the London Missionary Society's steamer, *Good News*, were safely delivered to Captain Hore, at Liendwe, on Lake Tanganyika, on the 8th of October last. The arduous task of conveying the steamer by land from Nyassa to Tanganyika was undertaken and personally carried out by Mr. Frederick Moir, one of the managers of the "African Lakes Company," who have been for some years engaged in mercantile operations on Lake Nyassa. From Karonga on the north-western shore of Nyassa to Pambete, the nearest port on Tanganyika, by the road taken by Mr. Moir and his large party of native porters, is 292 miles, a distance accomplished in thirty-one days. At Pambete the land transport ended, the sections being carried by water the further distance of 30 miles to the harbour of Liendwe, where Captain Hore has his sheds and workshops all ready for the mounting of the steamer. In letters which Mr. Moir has sent to his family in Edinburgh, the road between the lakes is described as level for the most part, i.e., after the plateau is reached from the lake level. Villages and their corresponding chiefs occur at every ten or twenty miles, each strongly defended by a deep ditch and stockade for fear of the marauding Wahemba tribe. Food was very scarce, and Mr. Moir and his party suffered much from hunger.

*Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society, April, 1884.*

## THE ANTI-SLAVERY MOVEMENT IN BRAZIL.

TO THE EDITOR OF *The Times*.

Sir,—Last year you kindly allowed me space in *The Times* to register the extinction of Slavery in one district of the Brazilian province of Ceara. I hope you will again be kind enough to give the publicity of *The Times* to the news I have just received by telegraph from Ceara—that the whole of the province was completely freed from Slavery on the 25th of March last.

The importance of such an event for the Anti-Slavery movement in Brazil cannot be

measured. Three years ago Ceara had 30,000 Slaves, and now, under the existing Brazilian law of 1871, which only freed the Slave children born after its date (when of 21 years of age), that province—without any help, but the contrary, from the central Government, through the enthusiasm for freedom which took possession of its whole people and led to the spontaneous desistance on the part of the Slave-owners of their property rights—is for ever and altogether rid of Slavery, opening in this way the list of Brazilian free-soil provinces. Only the universality of the abolitionist feeling could have brought about such a result.

The example given by the northern province will be a powerful dissolvent of the sinister institution which is ever since morally dead in every Brazilian conscience. With Ceara freed, what can excuse the scandal, I cannot say less, of the capital of Brazil, the City of Rio de Janeiro, remaining still an open Slave market? And what can now justify the maintenance, with the potential aid of the Brazilian army, in case of war, foreign or civil, of Slavery in our frontier, province of Rio Grande, morally weakening the national defences, and shutting an immense and fertile region in need of European immigrants?

Although the Ceara movement in its last rushing period was, in the largest sense, anonymous, that movement was initiated and led to its end, through great difficulties and obstacles, by a local Anti-Slavery Association called "A Cearense Libertadora." Every leading man of that small group of earnest, unselfish abolitionists will be long remembered in our country.

I am sure, Sir, that many persons in England will be glad to hear the great tidings of joy which now fills the heart of every true Brazilian. Slavery still exists among us in its most undisguised and repulsive form. I need not say how much we are ashamed of being such a last exception in the civilised world, but I am proud to be able to add that the Ceara achievement proves—and other events which are already casting their shadows before them will corroborate the evidence—that never in the whole history of Slave countries did any people within the Slavery area itself show such a strong national feeling against that régime as Brazil during the last five years.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
JOAQUIM NABUCO.

# FORM OF BEQUEST

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## ANTI-SLAVERY REPORTER

For JANUARY, 1884,

CONTAINS

A Review of Anti-Slavery Work in 1883;

An Article on the "AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE" (first published in *The Times* in December last);

"THE BECHUANA BOY" (Poem by Rev. T. Pringle);

List of Subscribers to Anti-Slavery Society;

&c., &c.

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# Anti-Slavery Jubilee.

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Fifty years ago the English Parliament passed an Act decreeing the emancipation of the Slaves in all the Colonies of Great Britain. Slavery and the Slave Trade still exist to an appalling extent in Africa, Brazil, and many other countries. The descendants of those men who fought the great battle of freedom which was carried to so successful an issue in 1834-1838 ought not to neglect the duty of continuing the struggle in other parts of the world.

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To the Reader,

May I beg a Contribution in aid of the Homes and Open-all-Night Refuge for the reclamation of young women and girls.

The Committee authorise the immediate admission of all suitable cases, applying night or day, Sunday or week day.

About 1000 young women and girls were admitted during 1883.

January 1st.—The Committee are in urgent need of donations to the amount of £500.

The Reader is asked to send a New Year's donation towards this amount.

CONTRIBUTIONS towards the amount required will be thankfully received by the Society's Bankers, Messrs. BOSANQUET, SALT, & CO., 73, Lombard Street, E.C.; FRANCIS NICHOLLS, Esq. (of the Committee), 14, Old Jewry Chambers, E.C.; and by

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# STEAMER FOR LAKE NYASSA.

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The Secretary of the Universities' Mission to Central Africa thankfully acknowledges the undermentioned sums:

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Of the released slave boys in the Mission Schools in Zanzibar the larger part are from Nyassa; and it is proposed to go to the Lake with many of these and some Europeans, and by aid of a steamer plying along the eastern shores of the Lake, which is some 300 miles in length,

- (1) To restore the Nyassas to their own land.
- (2) To leave native teachers in the villages.
- (3) To visit them at regular intervals.
- (4) To use the steamer as a base of operations as a training college and a refuge in case of need.

The steamer must be sent out in small pieces and put together on the Lake.

The cost will be from £2000 to £3000. Friends are invited to give a part or parts of the vessel—*e.g.*, the engines, the rigging, the boats, anchors, &c., the cost of which can be known on application.

Every effort will be made to save the next rainy season, by sending out this steamer, which is to be called the "Charles Janson," in September of this year.

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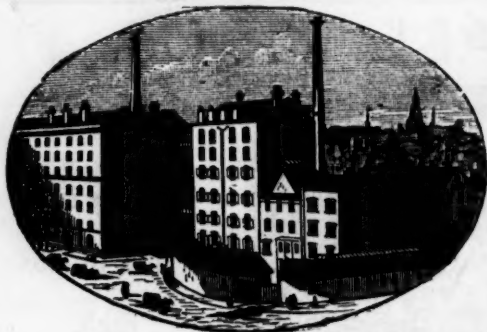
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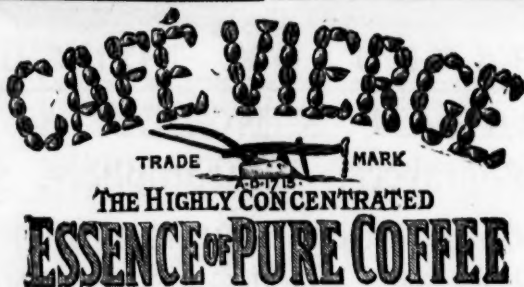
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This Essence is extracted at the Pharmaceutical Laboratories of ALLEN & HANBURY'S, LONDON, by a new and very perfect process, by means of which the delicate flavour and aroma of the Coffee are retained, without any of the coarseness and acidity so often perceptible in the ordinary brewing of the ground berries.

A very invigorating beverage is made by adding one or two teaspoonfuls of the CAFÉ VIERGE to a bottle of Seltzer or Soda Water, or a glass of cold milk (with sugar to taste); and used in this way the Essence will be found of great convenience to Tourists, Travellers and Sportsmen. It is also very useful for flavouring Ices, Creams, Cakes, &c.

Manufacturers— ALLEN & HANBURY'S } Joint  
Wholesale Purveyors— RIDGWAY & Co. } Proprietors.

PRICE 1s 6d. PER BOTTLE.

To be obtained of Chemists, Grocers, and Confectioners; or direct (carriage free on receipt of remittance) of

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